

Dental Public Health Activities Descriptive Summaries

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Butler County Dental Care Program – A Dental Case Management Program

The Butler County Dental Care Program is a dental case management program sponsored by the Butler County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MR/DD). The program was initiated in year 2000 as a result of a countywide study that indicated access to dental care has historically been a tremendous problem for persons with MR/DD. The program does not pay for dental services, but rather integrates networks of providers, hospitals, professional organizations, case managers, caregivers and guardian agencies and combine existing resources to provide appropriate dental care in a timely manner to people with special needs. This dental case management system ensures assessment, triage, diagnosis, treatment, prevention and follow-up/recall. The program also provides: (1) professional education to community dentists to increase their awareness, skills and comfort in caring for individuals with MR/DD, and (2) oral health in-service training to caregivers in home, hospital, workshop and intermediate/long term care facility settings. Annual budget for the program is approximately \$90,000. As a result of the program, children and adults with MR/DD are better able to obtain services in the community using existing dental resources.

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